

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

SEPTEMBER 2003



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## August Local Labor Scene

The August seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for **the La Crosse Metropolitan Area** was 4.3 percent, three-tenths of a percentage point higher than July's estimate but one-tenth lower than the August 2002 estimate.

Four of eight Western Counties experienced declining unadjusted unemployment rates in August, joining the 43 of Wisconsin's 72 counties that had lower unadjusted unemployment rates in August than in July.

Nine Wisconsin counties had experienced no change in their August unadjusted unemployment rates. Two of those counties, La Crosse and Trempealeau, are in Western Wisconsin.

Monroe and Vernon were two of twenty Wisconsin counties reporting an increase in unemployment in August. While Vernon's rate nudged up just one-tenth of a percent, Monroe's increase was sizable, an increase of 1.1 percent in August. Changes in employment in and around Fort McCoy likely account for part of August's increase. Due to the ongoing war in Iraq, normal training schedules were interrupted, changed, and sometimes canceled. In some instances, jobs traditionally performed by civilian employees were performed by active duty military personnel this year. Readers are reminded that employment and unemployment statistics do not include military personnel.

## Statewide Notes

Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated to be 5.9 percent in August, three-tenths of a percentage point higher than July's estimate and four-tenths higher than the August 2002 estimate. Wisconsin's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August dropped over the month one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.4 percent.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
<b>Current month: August 2003</b>			
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>75,700</b>	<b>3,100.8</b>	<b>146,530</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>72,400</b>	<b>2,918.8</b>	<b>137,625</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>8,905</b>
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
<b>Change from one month ago</b>			
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>-900</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>(10)</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>-1,100</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>(157)</b>
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
<b>Change from one year ago</b>			
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>1,407</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>868</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>539</b>
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			
<i>* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota</i>			

## National Notes

The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in August, which is one-tenth of a percentage point lower than July's and three-tenths higher than the rate recorded for August 2002.

National consumer confidence

bounced back in August from a dip the previous month, a private research group reported this month. The New York based Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index rose to 81.3 in August, up 4.3 points from a revised 77.0 in July. Analysts had expected a reading of 79.6 for August. Those reporting that jobs are "hard to get" rose to 34.1 percent from 32.7 percent in July. Consumers claiming jobs are "plentiful" however rose to 11.1 percent, up from 10.7 percent.

## Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

August 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force**</b>	7,670	11,000	12,360	11,150	63,390	21,860	16,300	14,770	158,500	95,100	3,129,360
Employed	7,350	10,510	11,920	10,190	60,890	20,520	15,530	14,040	150,950	90,060	2,959,620
Unemployed	320	490	440	960	2,500	1,330	770	730	7,550	5,040	169,740
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.4%	3.5%	8.6%	3.9%	6.1%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	5.3%	5.4%
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***</b>	5,000	8,400	8,700	9,200	67,600	18,300	13,700	8,600	139,500	71,900	2,795,100
Total Private	4,200	7,200	5,900	7,100	59,500	14,100	11,500	6,500	115,900	56,500	2,420,000
Goods Producing	500	1,700	2,000	2,500	11,900	3,800	5,900	1,200	29,400	17,500	652,800
Service Producing	4,500	6,600	6,800	6,700	55,700	14,600	7,700	7,400	110,100	54,400	2,142,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	180	280	1,150	290	2,900	600	320	270	6,000	3,100	131,800
Manufacturing	300	1,400	800	2,200	9,000	3,200	5,600	900	23,400	14,500	521,000
Trade	500	2,200	1,000	1,200	11,900	3,000	1,500	1,800	23,100	11,100	442,200
Transportation & Utilities	1,800	200	800	400	2,000	1,700	600	300	7,700	5,700	323,100
Financial Activities	160	210	250	250	3,600	610	360	390	5,800	2,200	159,300
Education and Health Services	600	1,200	600	1,200	12,200	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,100	7,800	363,300
Leisure & Hospitality	500	1,000	1,000	1,100	7,200	1,900	1,100	700	14,500	7,300	260,500
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	700	300	500	10,700	1,400	1,000	600	15,500	4,800	439,400
Total Government	790	1,160	2,870	2,100	8,100	4,230	2,140	2,140	23,500	15,400	375,100
Federal	180	70	60	240	450	2,310	140	120	3,560	3,110	28,700
State	20	210	430	580	1,800	240	40	50	3,360	1,560	91,100
Local	580	880	2,380	1,290	5,850	1,690	1,960	1,980	16,610	10,760	255,300
<b>Change from one month ago</b>	<b>July 2003</b>										
<b>Civilian Labor Force**</b>	-90	40	-220	-10	-1,500	100	-50	-60	-1,800	-300	-38,600
Employed	-40	90	-190	-10	-1,500	-150	-50	-70	-1,900	-400	-32,600
Unemployed	-50	-60	-30	-10	-100	240	0	20	100	100	-6,000
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.6	-0.6	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***</b>	40	150	-60	90	-1,000	30	80	-10	-700	300	-5,400
Percent change NFWS from last month	0.8%	1.8%	-0.7%	1.0%	-1.5%	0.2%	0.6%	-0.1%	-0.5%	0.4%	-0.2%
Total Private	60	150	0	0	-700	0	20	30	-400	300	400
Goods Producing	40	0	0	0	0	-300	0	-10	-300	-300	2,100
Service Producing	0	150	0	100	-1,000	300	80	0	-400	600	-7,500
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	0	10	-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	40	-10	0	0	0	-310	0	-10	-300	-300	2,100
Trade	0	140	0	0	-400	320	-20	0	100	400	1,900
Transportation & Utilities	30	0	0	10	0	40	20	0	100	100	1,500
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	-100
Education and Health Services	0	-10	0	0	-200	0	10	20	-200	0	-200
Leisure & Hospitality	-10	0	10	0	-100	20	0	10	-100	0	-1,100
Svcs	0	30	0	-10	0	-10	10	0	0	0	-1,000
Total Government	-20	0	-60	90	-360	-10	60	-30	-300	0	-5,800
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	-100
State	0	0	10	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	900
Local	-20	0	-70	80	-360	-20	60	-40	-400	0	-6,600
<b>Change from one year ago</b>	<b>August 2002</b>										
<b>Civilian Labor Force**</b>	210	510	600	370	600	1,010	950	600	4,800	4,200	74,000
Employed	140	430	590	310	700	1,140	870	550	4,700	4,000	59,100
Unemployed	70	70	0	60	-100	-130	80	50	100	200	14,900
Unemployment rate(%)	0.8	0.5	-0.2	0.2	-0.2	-0.9	0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.0	0.3
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***</b>	120	180	270	80	-700	730	530	210	1,400	2,100	1,200
Percent change NFWS from last year	2.4%	2.2%	3.1%	0.8%	-1.1%	4.2%	4.0%	2.5%	1.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Total Private	100	170	100	200	-400	900	500	100	1,700	2,100	5,800
Goods Producing	80	-220	100	-100	-400	100	200	0	-200	100	-23,400
Service Producing	40	410	200	200	-400	600	300	200	1,600	2,000	24,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	0	60	-10	-200	-20	-30	-30	-200	0	-8,100
Manufacturing	70	-220	0	-100	-200	110	250	40	-100	100	-15,200
Trade	-10	170	0	0	100	380	70	100	800	700	9,300
Transportation & Utilities	0	20	0	20	-100	130	10	20	100	200	5,700
Financial Activities	0	10	10	10	100	10	20	20	200	100	5,200
Education and Health Services	-20	50	100	100	100	80	60	50	400	300	6,400
Leisure & Hospitality	50	130	100	200	-100	260	150	20	800	900	-100
Svcs	0	20	-100	0	-100	-50	-70	-60	-400	-300	9,400
Total Government	10	10	130	-110	-360	-170	60	70	-400	0	-4,500
Federal	0	0	0	-40	-90	-80	0	10	-200	-100	-800
State	0	0	-20	-20	-90	-30	0	0	-200	-100	-3,200
Local	10	20	150	-50	-180	-60	50	60	0	200	-600

\* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County \*\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.  
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

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Direct questions and comments to: **William Brockmiller, Labor Market Analyst**  
La Crosse Job Center, 402 North 8th Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
608-785-9337 E-mail: [william.brockmiller@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:william.brockmiller@dwd.state.wi.us)